

**REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF DARIEN, CONNECTICUT
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a Meeting Held on January 23, 2006

On January 23, 2006, a special meeting of the RTM Public Works Committee was held in Room 213 of the Town Hall, 2 Renshaw Road, Darien. Nine out of twelve members were present. Present were:

Charles Andrew	Thomas Moore
David Bayne (Chairman)	John Price
Mark Dailey (Vice-Chairman)	Bruce Rae
L.J. Galvin	Brian Rayhill
Stephen Johnson	

Absent were Elsie Berl, John DeVita, and Frank Kemp.

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 and David Bayne volunteered and was unanimously elected to serve as Clerk for the meeting.

A discussion was then held concerning proposed amendments to the Town's Dump Ordinance currently being considered by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Bayne stated that he had spoken with the Director of Public Works Robert Steeger about the proposed changes and explained the proposal currently under consideration. The Committee's discussion focused on a proposed division of residential permits into "Basic" and "Enhanced" services. Under the proposal, a Basic residential service permit will cost a resident \$100 per year, unless they employ a commercial garbage service, in which case the permit will cost \$30 per year. This will entitled the holder to dispose of the normal amount of waste generated by a single family residence in Darien and a "small quantity" of yard

waste. The Enhanced service permit will cost \$200 per year with no discount for residents using commercial garbage haulers. An Enhanced service permit will entitle the holder to all the benefits of Basic service plus the ability to deliver unlimited amounts of yard waste. All residents using pick-up trucks and trailers of any type to bring refuse to the dump will be required to purchase an Enhanced service permit. No demolition or construction debris of any kind will be permitted to be brought to the dump under either the Basic or Enhanced permits. Finally, there will be “Commercial” permits for all other users, requiring the payment of an annual fee plus payment based on actual tonnage delivered to the dump.

The stated reason for this proposal is the concern of the Public Works Department that there are commercial users, particularly landscapers and contractors, using residential permits to dispose of substantial amounts of yard waste and construction debris generated by their businesses. Such persons should be using Commercial permits, but are not doing so. This material must be transported to other facilities for disposal, and the cost to the Town of approximately \$80 per ton substantially exceeds the revenue generated by such users’ residential permits.

Several members of the Committee questioned why we cannot enforce the current rules against these commercial users, and questioned how the Public Works Department will enforce the new rules without putting additional strain on its manpower. Mr. Andrew noted that the rules governing the dump were not well known by many users and that they should be more clearly posted and circulated to residents.

Mr. Price asked whether this ordinance change is intended as a revenue measure, or as a deterrent to abuse? The concern was expressed that if Darien's aim is to discourage contractors and landscapers, who are using residential permits to deliver commercial waste to the dump, then increasing the fees for Enhanced Service to \$200 per year will neither deter them nor adequately compensate the town for their abuse of residential stickers.

Finally, several members of the Committee, including Messrs. Bayne, Dailey, Galvin and Johnson raised and discussed the issue of whether Darien should investigate converting to a true "pay as you throw" system whereby all vehicles would be weighed upon entering and exiting the dump and charged accordingly. Such a solution would not only curb the abuses at the dump but would lead to more fairness in sharing the costs of the dump among its users.

No resolutions were proposed and no votes were taken. However, it was agreed that the Committee would monitor the Board of Selectmen's consideration and action on the proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David F. Bayne
Chairman & Temporary Clerk
RTM Public Works Committee